House Bill 872

By: Representatives Nimmer of the 178<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 130<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so
- 2 as to revise definitions, license fees, and license requirements; to amend Code Section 52-7-5
- 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of vessels, requirements,
- 4 and fees, so as to revise boat registration fees and allow additional methods for reporting the
- 5 sale of boats; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability;
- 6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

- 9 Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended in
- 10 Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions relative to game and fish, by adding a new
- 11 paragraph to read as follows:

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- 12 "(63.1) 'Seafood dealer' means any person other than the consumer who purchases, ships,
- consigns, transfers, barters, accepts, maintains, or packs any marine fishery products
- received from commercial seafood harvesters or marine aquaculturists for the first time."

15 SECTION 2.

- 16 Said title is further amended in Code Section 27-1-6, relating to powers and duties of the
- 17 Department of Natural Resources, by revising paragraph (10) as follows:
- 18 "(10) To develop an official waterfowl stamp for the State of Georgia and to issue such
- stamp to any interested person and to contract with any person granting such person the
- right to reproduce and market the official waterfowl stamp in stamp, print, poster, or such
- 21 other form as the department shall determine and to contract with any person for the
- department, including, but not limited to, public education; research; acquisition of

purpose of promoting, supporting, or otherwise assisting any waterfowl program of the

- wetlands; and management, development, and protection of waterfowl programs;
- provided, however, that not more than 15 percent of the funds retained by the department,

if any, shall be used for law enforcement activities. The department is authorized to establish a special fund to be known as the 'Waterfowl Stamp Fund.' This fund shall consist of all moneys paid to the department as royalties, 50 percent of all revenue received from the sale of Georgia migratory bird licenses, all moneys derived from the sale of any official waterfowl stamp, and all moneys contributed to the fund for the purposes provided in this paragraph and all interest thereon. All balances in the fund shall be deposited in an interest-bearing account identifying the fund and shall be carried forward each year so that no part thereof may be deposited in the general treasury. The department shall administer the fund and may expend moneys held in the fund in furtherance of the purposes provided in this paragraph. Moneys paid into this fund shall be deemed supplemental to and shall in no way supplant funding that would otherwise be appropriate for these purposes. As used in this paragraph, the term 'waterfowl' means any species of ducks, swans, or geese."

39 SECTION 3.

Said title is further amended in Code Section 27-2-1, relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing without a license or permit, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

"(b) It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap without a valid hunting license, fishing license, or trapping license, respectively, as provided in Code Section 27-2-23, except on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family; provided, however, that the resident owner of any vessel with a valid registration in accordance with Code Section 52-7-5 shall have, as part of the registration fee for such vessel, a paid three-day one-day resident hunting and fishing license that begins valid only on such owner's date of birth and extends two consecutive days thereafter in accordance with the requirements of this title and as otherwise specified by the department. It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state to hunt, fish, or trap in this state without carrying such license upon his or her person, except on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family and except when otherwise specifically directed by authorized personnel of the department."

54 SECTION 4.

- Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-3, relating to effective periods of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, as follows:
- 57 "27-2-3.

- 58 (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, all hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses,
- 59 including without limitation commercial fishing and commercial fishing boat licenses
- issued pursuant to Code Section 27-2-8, shall be effective from April 1 to March 31 of the

following year; except that all annual, two-year, or other multiyear hunting, fishing, and

- hunting and fishing combination licenses issued pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) of
- Code Section 27-2-23 shall be effective through the applicable one-year, two-year, or
- 64 multiyear anniversary of the date of issuance. <u>If a person possesses a valid annual</u>,
- 65 <u>two-year, or other multiyear hunting, fishing, or hunting and fishing combination license</u>
- at the time of sale of one or more annual, two-year, or other multiyear licenses with
- 67 <u>identical privileges to the valid license, the new license or licenses shall become effective</u>
- when the original license expires and shall remain valid through the full applicable period.
- The department may specify the effective dates and term of the following licenses or
- 70 permits:
- 71 (1) The migratory bird license to meet requirements of Code Section 27-2-20;
- 72 (2) The free Georgia salt water fishing endorsement to meet requirements of Code
- 73 <u>Section 27-2-20.1; and</u>
- 74 (3) Any permit or requirement authorized by Code Section 27-3-29 regarding harvest
- 75 <u>recording and reporting.</u>
- 76 (b) Multiyear licenses valid for any desired number of years may be purchased through a
- single transaction for licenses listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of Code Section 27-2-23.
- 78 The fee for any such multiyear license shall be equivalent to the lowest cost combination
- of annual or two-year licenses necessary to form the desired multiyear license period. No
- 80 multiyear resident license shall be valid at the time of hunting or fishing unless the licensee
- is a resident of this state at such time, except for lifetime licenses."

82 SECTION 5.

- 83 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to hunting and
- 84 sportsman's licenses, as follows:
- 85 "27-2-3.1.
- 86 (a) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license or permit for
- 87 noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges, except for hunting harvesting alligators,
- shall be satisfied by a resident <u>or nonresident</u> who procures a sportsman's license. An
- 89 applicant for such license shall, prior to the issuance of the license, complete a screening
- 90 questionnaire associated with the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program.
- 91 ; provided, however, that the department may specify other nonpaid licenses and permits
- 92 required by law or by rule or regulation of the board. An applicant for such license shall
- 93 <u>furnish all information required by the department prior to the issuance of such license.</u> An
- 94 applicant for any paid or nonpaid license who is a resident shall certify and provide
- 95 <u>satisfactory evidence of his or her residency as set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection (c)</u>
- 96 of this Code section.

(b) All licenses, stamps, or permits for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be attached to or printed on a form provided by the department which shall include the applicant's name, address, date of birth, and hunter safety certification number; provided, however, that each such item of information may be, but is not required to be, printed on lifetime licenses.

- (c)(1) The requirements in this title for procuring any <u>paid</u> license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, <u>that the department may specify other required nonpaid licenses and permits required by law or by rule or regulation of the board for such resident or nonresident and that an applicant for such license shall furnish all information required by the department prior to the issuance of such license; and provided, further, that the requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting or for noncommercial fishing privileges, separately, shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license for hunting only or for fishing only, respectively, as described in subparagraph (d)(1)(E) of this Code section.</u>
- 113 (2) An applicant for such license who is a resident shall certify and provide satisfactory
  114 evidence of his or her residency as set forth in paragraph (5) of this subsection.
  - (3) An applicant for a veteran's lifetime sportsman's license shall, in addition to satisfactory evidence of residency, be required to provide satisfactory evidence that he or she served more than 90 days of federal active duty military service and was honorably discharged.
  - (4)(3) An applicant for such a lifetime sportsman's license who is a nonresident shall not be eligible for issuance of such license unless:
    - (A) He or she is from two through 15 years of age and is the grandchild of a resident who holds a valid paid lifetime sportsman's license (not excluding a no-cost Type S lifetime license). The resident grandparent who holds such a lifetime sportsman's license and who is the sponsor of an eligible nonresident applicant for a lifetime sportsman's license shall certify the nonresident applicant's relationship to him or her in writing to the department; or
- (B) He or she is less than two years of age.
- 128 (5)(4)(A) For purposes of procuring a lifetime sportsman's license, the term 'residency'
  129 means a domicile within Georgia for a minimum of three consecutive months
  130 immediately prior to procuring such license. Satisfactory evidence of residency shall
  131 consist of a current Georgia driver's license or official Georgia identification card
  132 issued by the Department of Driver Services; provided, however, that no license or

identification card issued pursuant to Code Section 40-5-21.1 shall satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

- 135 (B) Minors under 18 years of age shall be presumed to be residents upon proof of
- parent's resident status as provided for in this Code section. For purposes of procuring
- the Type I (Infant) and Type Y (Youth) lifetime license, a copy of a certified copy of
- the birth certificate of the licensee shall be required to show age (Types I and Y) and
- parentage (Type Y). A court order or other legal document establishing parental rights
- or legal custody may be provided to show parentage.
- (d)(1) Lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees for residents shall be as follows:
- 142 (A) Type I (Infant), available only to those individuals under two years of age: \$200.00
- 143 \$500.00;
- (B) Type Y (Youth), available only to those individuals from two through 15 years of
- 145 age: \$350.00 \$600.00;
- 146 (C) Type A (Adult), available to those individuals 16 years to 49 years of age or older:
- 147 \$500.00 \$750.00;
- 148 (C.1) Type OA (Older Adult), available to those individuals 50 years to 59 years of
- 149 <u>age: \$375.00;</u>
- (D) Type SD (Senior Discount), available to those individuals 60 years to 64 years of
- age <del>or older</del>: \$95.00 \$315.00;
- 152 (E) Type S (Senior), available to those individuals 65 years of age or older born on or
- before June 30, 1952: no charge;. The lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees available
- to those individuals 65 years of age and older born after June 30, 1952, shall be as
- 155 <u>follows:</u>
- (i) Type SP (Senior Paid): \$70.00;
- 157 (ii) Type SH (Senior Hunt), for hunting only: \$35.00; and
- 158 (iii) Type SF (Senior Fish), for fishing only: \$35.00;
- (F) Type V (Veterans), available only to those individuals who served more than 90
- days of federal active duty military service and were honorably discharged: 80 percent
- of the amount of the fee specified for Type A lifetime sportsman's licenses in
- subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; and
- (G) Type M (Military), available only to those residents currently in active military
- service and who are in possession of a valid United States Department of Defense
- 165 <u>Common Access Card with a Uniformed Services affiliation.</u> As used in this
- subsection, the term 'active military service' means service on active duty with the
- armed forces of the United States or service with a reserve component of the armed
- forces of the United States, including service in the Georgia National Guard or National

Guard of another state: 80 percent of the amount of the fee specified for Type A

- lifetime sportsman's licenses in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; and
- 171 (G)(H) Type SP (Shooting Preserve), available to any individual, resident or
- nonresident, and which entitles the holder to hunt pen raised game birds and fish in any
- private or state waters within the boundaries of a properly licensed shooting preserve:
- 174 \$75.00.
- 175 (2) The fee for any lifetime sportsman's license for a nonresident, Type NR, shall be
- twice the amount of the fee for a Type A (Adult) lifetime sportsman's license for a
- resident, except that the fee for a nonresident Type I (Infant) license shall be the same fee
- as for a resident Type I (Infant) license.
- (e) Lifetime sportsman's licenses shall be valid for the lifetime of the purchaser, whether
- resident or nonresident. Change of residency to another state shall not affect the validity
- of the lifetime license when hunting or fishing in Georgia.
- 182 (f) The commissioner shall revoke the lifetime sportsman's license of any person who
- 183 knowingly attempts to or does purchase, obtain, or assist another person to obtain a lifetime
- sportsman's license by fraudulent means, without refund of any fees paid.
- (g) Upon payment of a replacement fee of up to \$10.00 \$15.00, any durable plastic card
- showing a lifetime sportsman's license or other valid license may be replaced if lost, stolen,
- or destroyed, provided that the applicant's name and lifetime license number or other
- required license information are in the records of the department.
- (h) Once a lifetime license is issued, no refunds of fees will be made except in the case of
- the death before age 16 years of a Type I (Infant) lifetime license holder or a Type Y
- 191 (Youth) license holder, in which case a full refund of fees collected may be made upon
- submission of the lifetime license and any other documentation required by the department.
- 193 (i) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for
- 194 <u>noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident youth</u>
- 195 younger than 16 years of age who procures an optional annual or an optional multiyear
- resident youth sportsman's license. The requirements in this title for procuring any paid
- license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a youth
- 198 <u>younger than 16 years of age who procures an optional annual or an optional multiyear</u>
- resident youth license for fishing only. A resident youth multiyear fishing license or
- 200 resident youth multiyear sportsman's license will be valid from the time of purchase until
- 201 <u>such person reaches 17 years of age. The department may require satisfactory evidence to</u>
- show age and residency before issuing an annual or youth multiyear license."

**SECTION 6.** 

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-4, relating to honorary licenses,

as follows:

206 "27-2-4.
207 (a) The department shall issue an honorary a discounted hun

(a) The department shall issue an honorary a discounted hunting and fishing license, which 208 shall entitle a resident to hunt and fish in this state without the payment of fees described 209 in Code Section 27-2-23, to each resident who is permanently and totally disabled. For 210 purposes of this Code section, a permanent, total disability shall be a physical or mental 211 impairment of a total and permanent nature which prevents gainful employment and which is certified as such by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, the Social Security 212 213 Administration, Medicaid, medicare, the Railroad Retirement System, or a unit of federal, 214 state, or local government recognized by the board by rule or regulation; provided, however, that persons disabled because of a mental impairment shall be issued an honorary 215 216 <u>a discounted</u> fishing license only. Persons issued <del>an honorary</del> <u>a discounted</u> license under disability provisions shall renew such licenses and recertify their eligibility for such 217 licenses every three years; provided, however, that honorary licenses issued pursuant to this 218 219 subsection and in effect as of July 1, 1998, shall not require renewal. The triennial fee for

- 220 <u>a discounted license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be \$9.00 (\$3.00 annually) for</u>
- hunting or fishing only and \$15.00 (\$5.00 annually) for hunting and fishing combined.
- 222 (b) Any resident who is totally blind and who applies to the department shall receive a
- 223 lifetime honorary fishing license which shall entitle the holder thereof to fish in this state
- without the payment of any fee whatsoever.
- 225 (c) Any person holding a valid honorary or discounted license pursuant to this Code
- section shall not be required to obtain the trout license and big game license otherwise
- required by Code Section 27-2-6.
- 228 (d) All honorary and discounted hunting and fishing licenses are subject to all wildlife
- laws, rules, and regulations with the exception of the provisions requiring the payment of
- fees described in Code Section 27-2-23 for such licenses. Such honorary and discounted
- licenses may be revoked in accordance with this title. It shall be unlawful for any person
- 232 who has an honorary <u>or discounted</u> hunting and fishing license to permit the use of same
- by any other person. It shall also be unlawful for any person who is not entitled to an
- 234 honorary a discounted hunting and fishing license to use such a license or for any totally
- and permanently disabled person issued such a license to possess or use such license when
- the disability is no longer total or permanent. Licenses for the totally and permanently
- disabled may, upon a determination that the disability is no longer total or permanent, be
- revoked until such time as the disability is again total and permanent.

(e) The commissioner is authorized to make and enter into agreements from time to time with the proper authorities of various states of the United States regarding nonresident hunting and fishing license fees for persons 65 years of age or older so as to provide honorary discounted hunting and fishing licenses to be issued without charge to nonresidents 65 years of age or older where such practice is reciprocated for Georgia residents in that person's state of residence.

- (f) Persons holding lifetime honorary licenses issued to persons 65 years of age or older prior to April 1, 1999, shall not be required to obtain a lifetime license pursuant to Code Section 27-2-3.1, and such lifetime honorary license shall carry the same rights and privileges as a lifetime license issued pursuant to that Code section.
- 249 (g)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'returning veteran' means a person who is 250 discharged from active duty as a member of the regular or reserve component of the 251 United States armed forces, the United States Coast Guard, the Georgia National Guard, 252 or the Georgia Air National Guard and who was on ordered federal duty for a period of 253 90 days or longer.
- 254 (2) The department shall issue an honorary hunting and fishing license to any returning 255 veteran which shall entitle him or her to hunt and fish in this state without the payment 256 of fees described in Code Section 27-2-23 for a period of one year following issuance. 257 A returning veteran requesting such an honorary license shall provide proof of his or her 258 discharge."

**SECTION 7.** 

- Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-4.2, relating to courtesy nonresident fishing licenses for certain veterans, as follows:
- 262 "27-2-4.2.

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The department is authorized to issue a courtesy nonresident fishing license, without fee, 263 to any person who is not a resident of this state who is a paralyzed or disabled veteran and 264 who is participating in an organized fishing tournament in this state which is sponsored and 265 conducted by a nonprofit charitable association of paralyzed or disabled veterans, provided 266 that such tournament is approved by the department. Such courtesy nonresident license 267 shall be valid for use only during the specified dates of such tournament and for a 268 269 maximum of seven days and shall include all requirements and privileges of a nonresident 270 fishing license, including the nonresident trout license, for use only in association with such 271 tournament."

SECTION 8.

273 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-5, relating to required hunter education courses, as follows:

275 "27-2-5.

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with this subsection.

requirement.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person born on or after January 1, 1961, to procure a 276 277 hunting license or to hunt by means of weapons in this state unless that person has been 278 issued a certificate or other evidence the department deems acceptable which indicates satisfactory completion of a hunter education course as prescribed by the board. Persons 279 280 ages 16 12 through 25 shall provide such certificate or other evidence to the issuing agent 281 at the time of purchase of a hunting license. All persons required by this subsection to complete a hunter education course, by signing buying such license, by receiving a 282 temporary license identification number, or by receiving a license from a telephone license 283

agent, Internet license agent, or other vendor, shall certify by such action their compliance

- 286 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person authorized to issue hunting licenses in this state to
  287 issue a hunting license to any person age 16 through 25 unless that license agent shall have
  288 been provided with a certificate showing the license applicant has satisfactorily completed
  289 a hunter education course as prescribed by the board, or to any other person born on or
  290 after January 1, 1961, unless such person provides such other evidence of completion of
  291 a hunter education course as the department deems acceptable. Internet and telephone
  292 license agents may accept a valid hunter education certificate number as fulfillment of this
  - (c) It shall be unlawful for any person age 16 through 25 who is not required by law to obtain a hunting license to hunt in this state unless that person carries on his or her person while hunting a certificate attesting to that person's satisfactory completion of a hunter education course as prescribed by the board. Such person shall present his or her certificate to a conservation ranger or deputy conservation ranger for inspection upon demand.
- 299 (d) Any person who is age 12 through 15 shall satisfactorily complete a hunter education 300 course as a prerequisite to hunting with a weapon in this state. It shall be unlawful for any 301 adult to permit his or her child or ward age 12 through 15 to hunt with a weapon unless the 302 child has a certificate attesting to his or her satisfactory completion of such course on his 303 or her person; provided, however, that a hunter education course is not required for a child 304 age 12 through 15 less than 16 years of age who is hunting under adult supervision by a 305 licensed adult hunter.
- 306 (e) Any person applying for an annual <u>or multiyear</u> nonresident hunting/fishing license 307 may provide a certificate of completion or such other evidence of completion the 308 department deems acceptable of the official hunter education or hunter safety course of

Those persons No one applying for a hunting license other than a season hunting of less than one year in duration or for a lifetime license shall not be required to exhibit such a certificate or to complete a hunter education course in order to obtain the license. Persons holding a lifetime license shall complete an official hunter education or hunter safety course and display proof of completion as specified by the department in order to hunt unless otherwise exempted by this title.

(f) By rule or regulation, the board shall prescribe a course of instruction in competency

and safety in hunting and in the handling of weapons. The board shall also prescribe procedures whereby competent residents of this state shall be certified as hunter education instructors. The board may provide, by rule or regulation, for charging reasonable fees for the issuance by the department of duplicate certificates of completion of a hunter education course and for hunter education courses in order to defray the expenses of conducting such courses. Any such fees shall be deemed as 'other income' of the department for purposes of subsection (c) of Code Section 27-1-13.

324 (g) Any person violating any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to any person under the age of 16.

(h) The requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of this Code section shall not apply to any person hunting on his or her own land or that of his or her parents or legal guardian or to persons permitting a child or ward aged 12 through 15 years to hunt on the parent's or guardian's own land."

**SECTION 9.** 

- Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-6, relating to trout, waterfowl, big game, and alligator licenses, as follows:
- 334 "27-2-6.

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- 335 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to fish for or
- possess mountain trout or to fish in any waters designated as trout waters or trout streams
- pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51 unless such person has in his or her possession a trout
- license in addition to his or her fishing license.
- 339 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt or
- possess big game unless such person has in his or her possession a big game license in
- addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that all nonresidents,
- regardless of age, must possess a nonresident hunting/fishing license along with any
- harvest records required by law or regulation to hunt big game in this state.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt ducks, geese, or swans unless such person has in his or her possession an official Georgia waterfowl a Georgia migratory bird license in addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that only a Georgia migratory bird license or a landowner migratory

- bird license shall be required for any resident of this state to hunt migratory birds on
- premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family.
- 350 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt
- alligators unless such person has in his or her possession an alligator hunting license in
- 352 addition to the required a valid hunting license; provided, however, that this subsection
- 353 shall not apply to lifetime license holders. A resident or nonresident alligator permit shall
- be required to harvest an alligator. Such permit shall be free to lifetime license holders if
- 355 <u>selected as part of any department quota or lottery.</u>
- 356 (e) No resident of this state shall be required to obtain a trout license, official Georgia
- 357 waterfowl license, or big game license to hunt, fish, or trap on premises owned by him or
- 358 her or his or her immediate family.
- 359 (f) Any visitor to a state park, whether a resident or nonresident of Georgia, shall not be
- required to purchase a trout license when fishing in impounded waters on lands owned or
- leased by the department."

362 **SECTION 10.** 

- 363 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-8, relating to commercial fishing
- 364 boat licenses, as follows:
- 365 "27-2-8.

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- 366 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial fishing with a boat or
- vessel in the salt waters of this state without first obtaining a valid commercial fishing boat
- license for the boat or vessel. The owner or operator of the boat or vessel shall present in
- writing an application for the license, setting forth such data and information as the
- department shall require. The application shall be made upon a form prescribed by the
- department and shall be under oath and duly witnessed by an officer authorized by law to
- administer oaths.
- 373 (b) Fees for licenses required under this Code section shall be as follows:
- 374 (1) A trawler (which shall be any boat or vessel which utilizes one or more trawls or
- power-drawn nets in the taking of shrimp, crabs, or fish), up to and including 18 feet in
- overall length<del>, \$50.00</del>: \$85.00;
- 377 (2) A trawler more than 18 feet in overall length, \$50.00: \$85.00 plus \$3.00 per foot or
- fraction thereof of overall length in excess of 18 feet; and

379 (3) All boats other than trawlers, up to and including 18 feet in overall regardless of 380 length;: \$5.00;

- 381 (4) All boats, other than trawlers, over 18 feet in overall length, \$5.00 plus 50¢ per foot 382 or fraction thereof in excess of 18 feet.
- (c) To defray the additional cost of regulating and policing, aliens and nonresidents shall 383 384 be charged a license fee in addition to that provided by subsection (b) of this Code section in the amount of \$25.00 \$150.00 for each trawl boat or vessel used and \$50.00 for each 385 boat or vessel other than a trawler used in commercial fishing or in the taking of seafood, 386 387 which boat or vessel is owned, in whole or part, by such nonresident or alien, provided that, 388 in the event such nonresident or alien applying for the license is a resident of another state which charges nonresidents a license fee greater than the total license fee charged for 389 390 nonresidents in this state, then the additional license fee provided for nonresidents in this subsection shall be increased to the amount necessary to cause the Georgia nonresident 392 license fee to be the same amount as the nonresident license fee of such other state."

393 **SECTION 11.** 

- 394 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-20, relating to migratory bird
- 395 hunting, as follows:
- 396 "27-2-20.

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- 397 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person 16 years of age or older to hunt brant, ducks, geese,
- 398 and swans in this state without a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp.
- 399 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person required to obtain a hunting license as provided in
- 400 Code Section 27-2-1 to hunt any migratory game bird, including brant, ducks, geese,
- 401 swans, doves, rails, woodcock, snipe, gallinules, and coots, without participating in the
- 402 federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Participation in such program shall
- 403 require the completion of a an annual screening questionnaire prior to obtaining a free
- 404 Georgia migratory bird license and the or a landowner migratory bird license. Persons
- 405 holding any other license conveying migratory bird hunting privileges shall complete the
- annual screening questionnaire before hunting migratory birds. Persons shall be in 406
- 407 possession of the license or other and evidence of participation in the annual screening questionnaire as provided by the department while hunting migratory birds."
- 409 **SECTION 12.**
- Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-23, relating to license, permit, 410
- 411 stamp, and tag fees, as follows:
- 412 "27-2-23.

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Fees for licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by this title shall be as follows: 413

414	(1) Hunting licenses:		
415	(A) Resident hunting license	Annual	<del>\$10.00</del> <u>\$15.00</u>
416	(B) Resident hunting license	Two-year	<del>18.00</del> <u>30.00</u>
417	(C) Nonresident hunting license	<u>Annual</u>	100.00
418	(D) Nonresident hunting license	Two-year	200.00
419	(E) Nonresident hunting license	One-day	<u>20.00</u>
420	(C)(F) Resident big game license	Annual	<del>9.00</del> <u>25.00</u>
421	(D)(G) Nonresident big game license	Annual	<del>195.00</del> <u>225.00</u>
422	(H) Resident big game license	One-day	<u>10.00</u>
423	(E)(I) Nonresident big game license	Three-day	<del>90.00</del> <u>130.00</u>
424		One-day	
425	(F)(J) Resident big game license	Two-year	<del>16.00</del> <u>50.00</u>
426	(K) Nonresident big game license	Two-year	<u>450.00</u>
427	(L) Resident senior hunting license for 65	<u>Annual</u>	<u>4.00</u>
428	years of age or older		
429	(G)(M) Shooting preserve hunting license	Two-year	12.00
430	valid for residents and nonresidents		
431	(H)(N) Commercial fox hunting preserve	Season	<del>60.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
432	license	<u>Seasonal</u>	
433	(I)(O) Commercial fox breeder license	Season	<del>60.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
434		<u>Seasonal</u>	
435	(J) Waterfowl (P) Migratory bird license	Annual	<del>5.50</del> <u>5.00</u>
436	valid for residents and nonresidents		
437	(Q) Landowner migratory bird license	<u>Annual</u>	<u>0.00</u>
438	(K) Waterfowl license valid for residents and	<del>Two-year</del>	<del>11.00</del>
439	nonresidents		
440	(L) Georgia migratory bird license	Annual	Free
441	(2) Hunting and fishing licenses:		
442	(A) Resident hunting/fishing license	Annual	<del>17.00</del> <u>30.00</u>
443	(B) Resident hunting/fishing license	Two-year	<del>31.00</del> <u>60.00</u>
444	(C) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Three-day	<del>20.00</del> <u>30.00</u>
445		One-day	
446	(D) Resident hunting/fishing license	Three-day	<del>3.50</del> <u>5.00</u>
447		One-day	
448	(E) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Annual	<del>100.00</del> <u>150.00</u>

449	(F) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Two-year	<u>300.00</u>
450	(3) Sportsman's licenses:		
451	(A) Resident sportsman's license	Annual	<del>55.00</del> <u>65.00</u>
452	(B) Resident sportsman's license	Two-year	<del>105.00</del> <u>130.00</u>
453	(C) Nonresident sportsman's license	<u>Annual</u>	400.00
454	(D) Nonresident sportsman's license	Two-year	800.00
455	(E) Resident sportsman's license	One-day	<u>25.00</u>
456	(F) Nonresident sportsman's license	One-day	<u>170.00</u>
457	(G) Resident optional youth sportsman's	<u>Annual</u>	<u>5.00</u>
458	license for 12 to 15 years of age		
459	(H) Resident optional youth sportsman's	Multiyear	<u>15.00</u>
460	license for 12 to 15 years of age		
461	(I) Resident senior sportsman's license for 65	<u>Annual</u>	<u>7.00</u>
462	years of age or older		
463	(4) Recreational fishing licenses:		
464	(A) Resident fishing license	Annual	<del>9.00</del> <u>15.00</u>
465	(B) Resident fishing license	Two-year	<del>16.00</del> <u>30.00</u>
466	(C) Nonresident fishing license	Annual	4 <del>5.00</del> <u>50.00</u>
467	(D) Nonresident fishing license	Two-year	<u>100.00</u>
468	(E) Nonresident fishing license	One-day	10.00
469	$\frac{(D)(F)}{(E)}$ Resident trout license	Annual	<del>5.00</del> <u>10.00</u>
470	(E)(G) Resident trout license	Two-year	<del>10.00</del> <u>20.00</u>
471	(F)(H) Resident trout license	Three-day	<del>3.50</del> <u>5.00</u>
472		One-day	
473	(G)(I) Nonresident trout license	Annual	<del>20.00</del> <u>25.00</u>
474	(J) Nonresident trout license	Two-year	50.00
475	$\frac{(H)(K)}{(K)}$ Nonresident trout license	Three-day	10.00
476		One-day	
477	(I) Salt-water shore fishing license	<del>One-day</del>	<del>5.00</del>
478	(L) Resident youth fishing license for 12 to 15	<u>Annual</u>	<u>3.00</u>
479	years of age		
480	(M) Resident youth fishing license for 12 to	<u>Multiyear</u>	<u>10.00</u>
481	15 years of age		
482	(N) Resident senior fishing license for 65	<u>Annual</u>	4.00
483	years of age or older		

484	(5) Trapping licenses:		
485	(A) Resident commercial trapping license	Annual	<del>30.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
486	(B) Nonresident commercial trapping license	Annual	<del>295.00</del> <u>325.00</u>
487	(6) Commercial fishing licenses:		
488	(A) Resident commercial fishing license	Season	<del>12.00</del> <u>20.00</u>
489		Seasonal	
490	(B) Nonresident commercial fishing license	Season	<del>118.00</del> <u>200.00</u>
491		<u>Seasonal</u>	
492	(C) Resident commercial fishing species	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>5.00</u>
493	<u>endorsement</u>		
494	(D) Nonresident commercial fishing species	Seasonal	<u>10.00</u>
495	<u>endorsement</u>		
496	(C)(E) Resident commercial crabbing license	Season	<del>12.00</del> <u>20.00</u>
497		<u>Seasonal</u>	
498	(D)(F) Nonresident commercial crabbing	Season	<del>118.00</del> <u>200.00</u>
499	license	<u>Seasonal</u>	
500	(7) Fur, hide, and pelt licenses:		
501	(A) Resident fur dealer license	Annual	<del>295.00</del> <u>300.00</u>
502	(B) Nonresident fur dealer license	Annual	<del>415.00</del> <u>450.00</u>
503	(C) Fur dealer's agent license	Annual	<del>180.00</del> <u>200.00</u>
504	(8) Miscellaneous licenses and permits:		
505	(A) Retail fish dealer license	Annual	<del>10.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
506	(B) Wholesale fish dealer license	Annual	<del>59.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
507	(C) Resident game-holding permit	Annual	5.00
508	(D) Commercial quail breeder permit	Annual	30.00
509	(E) Scientific collecting permit	Annual	<del>50.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
510	(F) Wildlife exhibition permit	Annual	<del>59.00</del> <u>150.00</u>
511	(G) Commercial shooting preserve license	Annual	150.00
512	(H) Private shooting preserve license	Annual	50.00
513	(I) Reserved.		
514	(J) Commercial fish hatchery license	Annual	<del>59.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
515	(K) Catch-out pond license	Annual	<del>236.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
516	(L) Soft-shell crab dealer license	Annual	<del>10.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
517	(M) Resident taxidermist license	Three-year	150.00
518	(N) Nonresident taxidermist license	Three-year	500.00

519	(O) Falconry permit	Three-year	<del>30.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
520	(P) Commercial alligator farming license	Annual	<del>50.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
521	(Q) Resident alligator hunting license permit	Annual	<del>50.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
522	(R) Nonresident alligator hunting license	Annual	<del>200.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
523	<u>permit</u>		
524	(S) Wild animal license	Annual	<del>236.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
525	(T) Wild animal auction license	Seven-day	<del>5,000.00</del> <u>5,500.00</u>
526	(U) Resident bait dealer license	Season	<del>25.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
527		<u>Seasonal</u>	
528	(V) Nonresident bait dealer license	Season	<del>150.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
529		<u>Seasonal</u>	
530	(W) Resident trawler crew license	<u>Annual</u>	<u>200.00</u>
531	(X) Nonresident trawler crew license	<u>Annual</u>	600.00
532	(Y) Seafood dealer license	<u>Annual</u>	<u>40.00</u>
533	(9) Any one-day license purchased that has not ex	xpired may be e	extended for up to ten
534	additional consecutive days by payment of addition	nal reduced rate	e daily fees:
535	(A) Nonresident hunting license: \$6.00 per day;		
536	(B) Resident big game license: \$2 per day;		
537	(C) Nonresident big game license: \$8.00 per day;		
538	(D) Nonresident hunting/fishing license: \$10.00 per day;		
539	(E) Resident hunting/fishing license: \$1.00 per day;		
540	(F) Nonresident fishing license: \$3.50 per day;		
541	(G) Resident trout license: \$1.00 per day;		
542	(H) Nonresident trout license: \$2 per day;		
543	(I) Resident sportsman's license: \$3.00 per day;	<u>and</u>	
544	(J) Nonresident sportsman's license: \$20.00 per	<u>day.</u>	
545	(10) The board is authorized to provide by rule for a	fee not to exce	ed \$19.00 for resident
546	daily, seasonal, or annual use permits, or licenses;	a fee of \$38.00	for resident two-year
547	use permits; or a fee not to exceed \$73.00 for nonre	sident annual u	se permits or licenses
548	to hunt and fish on or otherwise use specially design	gnated streams	, lakes, public fishing
549	areas, or wildlife management areas.		
550	(11) For wildlife that may be legally taken by com	mercial fishing	gear as authorized in
551	this title or by board rule, the board may designate	-	-
552	grouping of wildlife require a commercial fishing s	-	
553	in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (6) of	this Code sect	ion in addition to the

required commercial fishing license. Each species or group of species so designated shall require a separate commercial fishing species endorsement.

(10)(12) The fees for any annual or two-year license established in subparagraphs (1)(A) through (1)(F), (2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(E), (3)(A), (3)(B), (4)(A), (4)(B), (4)(C), (4)(D), (4)(E), and (4)(G) (A) through (K) of paragraph (1) and in paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of this Code section shall be reduced by \$2.75 the amount of the lowest available renewal transaction fee for each renewal transaction made before the expiration date of the then current license or tag. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'renewal transaction' means the renewal of one or more licenses by a licensee during a single telephone call, Internet session, or on-site visit to a store."

**SECTION 13.** 

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 27-2-28, relating to unlawful collection of funds, as follows:

"(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to counterfeit, change, or alter or to attempt to counterfeit, change, or alter any license or permit issued pursuant to this title. It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a license agent <u>authorized by the department</u> or authorized personnel of the department, to collect any funds for any license or permit issued pursuant to this title <u>or to charge a fee to obtain any such license or permit.</u>"

**SECTION 14.** 

Said title is further amended by revising subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section 27-3-17, relating to hunting deer with dogs, as follows:

"(g) Any person 16 years of age or older, including without limitation any person hunting on his or her own property, who hunts deer with dogs must obtain and possess a deer-dog hunting license in addition to all other required hunting licenses and permits. The license fee for such deer-dog license shall be \$5.00 for a one-year period, except that there shall be no charge for any holder of a valid honorary hunting license, sportsman's license, or lifetime sportsman's license issued pursuant to this title.

(h)(g) In addition to the provisions of subsection (f) of this Code section, the commissioner may revoke a deer-dog license suspend deer-dog hunting privileges for a specified period of time not to exceed two years for any hunter who, within a single hunting season,

of time not to exceed two years for any hunter who, within a single hunting season, commits two or more violations of dogs off of permitted property. The hunter shall be notified of the proposed suspension personally or by a letter sent by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery to the hunter's address indicated on the application for a hunting license. The proposed suspension shall become final 30 days after issuance if not appealed as provided in this Code section. The hunter shall, upon petition within 30 days

of issuance of notice given as stated in this Code section, have a right to a hearing before
an administrative law judge appointed by the board. The hearing before the administrative
law judge shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia
Administrative Procedure Act,' and the rules and regulations adopted by the board pursuant
thereto. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute the final decision of
the board, and any party to the hearing, including the commissioner, shall have the right
of judicial review thereof in accordance with such chapter."

**SECTION 15.** 

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-30, relating to fishing in private ponds, as follows:

599 "27-4-30.

The owner of a private pond, the owner's <u>immediate</u> family, or tenants with the owner's consent shall be permitted to fish within the bounds of the pond at any time and in any manner without a fishing license. All other persons shall be required to obtain fishing licenses to fish within the bounds of a private pond as provided in this title unless the fish in the private pond are 'domestic fish' as defined in paragraph (23) of Code Section 27-1-2. For the purposes of this Code section, the term 'private pond' shall not include ponds owned by city or county governments, the State of Georgia, the United States, or authorities or political subdivisions of such governments."

**SECTION 16.** 

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-136, relating to maintenance of records by suppliers, as follows:

611 "27-4-136.

(a)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate as a seafood dealer or to own or operate shellfish canning or shucking facilities or otherwise deal in purchasing, landing, packing, or supplying raw shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial purposes without having a valid seafood dealer license as provided for in Code Section 27-2-23.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or operating shellfish canning or shucking facilities or otherwise dealing in purchasing, landing, packing, or supplying raw shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial purposes required to have a seafood dealer license to fail to keep a record in which is entered the amount of shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood taken from Georgia waters for commercial purposes; the name of each person from whom purchased; the date and price of purchase; the grade and quantity purchased; the name, number, and approximate tonnage of the boat in which

they were brought to the facility; the number of calendar days expended in harvesting the product; the approximate location or locations of harvest; the quantity canned and packed for shipment; the date and amount of each shipment; and such other information as the department requires.

- (2)(3) Each person required to maintain records pursuant to paragraph (1) (2) of this subsection shall report such information to the department, whose address for the purpose of reporting shall be the Coastal Resource Division headquarters, at such times and in such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any master collecting permittee to fail to maintain records in
   a form as prescribed by the Department of Agriculture.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person required to have a seafood dealer license to purchase
   seafood from any person other than a properly licensed seafood harvester or another
   seafood dealer."

**SECTION 17.** 

Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (g) of Code Section 27-4-151, relating to use of crab traps, as follows:

"(g)(1)(A) The first time after July 1, 1998, that a person obtains or renews a commercial crabbing license, he or she shall obtain a permit from the department establishing the maximum number of traps he or she may deploy at any given time during that license year. Such permits shall be issued in 50 trap increments up to a maximum of 200 traps. The licensee shall pay a fee of \$2.00 \subseteq 22.50 per trap for the permit, and the permit shall be for the same duration and shall be renewed at the same time as the commercial crabbing license.

(B) No crab trap permit may be sold or transferred to another person except as provided in this subparagraph. Such a permit may be transferred along with the transfer of the licensed commercial crabber's nontrawler license to a replacement vessel if the transfer of the permit and the license is registered with the department. Such a permit may be transferred to the purchaser of a commercial crab boat along with the commercial crabber's license and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license if the transfer of the permit, the commercial crabber's license, and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license are recorded with the department and a new permit fee is paid to the department.

(C)(B) No crab trap permit may be amended to permit the use of more traps except at the time of license renewal. The licensee shall have the trap permit in his or her possession at all times while crabbing."

659 **SECTION 18.** 

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-206, relating to issuance of

- 661 commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses, as follows:
- 662 "27-4-206.
- 663 (a) The department may issue no more than 200 commercial food shrimp cast netting
- licenses as provided in this Code section. Such licenses shall be issued only to individuals
- and shall not be transferable.
- 666 (b) The department shall issue commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses for the
- 667 1998-1999 license year in order of the date and time the application was received to
- 668 individuals who:
- (1) Were in possession of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing license issued on or
- 670 before December 12, 1997;
- 671 (2) Were listed as owner or captain of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing boat license
- on the application for which a cast net was indicated as a commercial harvest gear on or
- 673 before December 12, 1997; and
- 674 (3) Are able to provide evidence satisfactory to the department that they sold shrimp
- 675 ex-vessel during the 1997-1998 license year on or before December 12, 1997.
- 676 (c)(b) If the number of licenses issued pursuant to subsection (b) (a) of this Code section
- does not total 200, the department may issue the remaining allotment of commercial food
- shrimp cast netting licenses in the initial or any subsequent license year by lottery devised
- and operated by the department. After such lottery has been conducted, any remaining
- unissued licenses may be issued via a method established by the department.
- 681 (d)(c) The department shall charge a license fee for the commercial food shrimp cast
- netting license in the amount of \$250.00 for a resident commercial food shrimp cast netting
- license and \$2,500.00 for a nonresident commercial food shrimp cast netting license.
- 684 (e)(d) Any license which is not renewed in subsequent license years shall revert to the
- department to be issued as provided in subsection (c) (b) of this Code section."

686 **SECTION 19.** 

- 687 Code Section 52-7-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of
- vessels, requirements, and fees, is amended by revising subsections (d), (e), and (j) as
- 689 follows:
- 690 "(d) Applications shall be signed by the owner or owners of the vessel and shall be
- accompanied by the proper fee. Fees for numbering vessels for a registration period of
- three years shall be as follows:

693	(1) Vessels up to 16 feet in length	<del>\$15.00</del> <u>\$25.00</u>
694	(2) Vessels 16 to 26 feet in length	<del>36.00</del> <u>46.00</u>
695	(3) Vessels 26 to 40 feet in length	<del>90.00</del> <u>100.00</u>
696	(4) Vessels 40 feet in length or longer	<del>150.00</del> <u>160.00</u>

- (e)(1) Registration for vessels shall expire on the last day of the month of the owner's 698 birth in the last year of the registration period and shall thereafter be of no force or effect unless renewed pursuant to this article; provided, however, that the registration for vessels not owned by individuals shall expire on December 31 of the last year of the registration period. Certificates of number may be renewed by the owner in the same manner provided for in the initial securing of such certificates.
  - (2) Registrations may be renewed any time after October 1 prior to the year of expiration. If the certificate of number is allowed to expire, a renewal application may still be filed with the department so long as the applicant pays the registration fee prescribed in subsection (d) of this Code section along with a \$10.00 late fee.
  - (3) Any application for renewal which, due to failure of the applicant to provide additional information required by the department, remains incomplete 60 days after initial receipt of such application shall expire, and a new application and registration fee shall be required for renewal."
  - "(j) The owner shall furnish the department written notice of the transfer of all or of any part of his or her interest, other than the creation of a security interest, in a vessel numbered in this state pursuant to this Code section, the theft or recovery of the vessel, or the destruction or abandonment of the vessel within 15 days thereof, in a manner specified by the department."

**SECTION 20.** 716

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717 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2016, and shall apply to all offenses occurring on or after such date. 718

719 **SECTION 21.** 

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed. 720